

64th YEAR

NUMBER 19,940.

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SPOT FOR ATTACK

Fighting Sways Back and Forth, With Little Ad-

vantage to Either Side.

Fighting in Poland Is Terrific, and Troops Clash With

Bayonet.

FRENCH CRUISER TORPEDOED

Russian Reports Claim Continued

Successes for Czar's Men on Galician Fields.

Both East and West

Fighting Is Intense in

INVADERS ON OFFENSIVE

BY ALLIED ARMS

AT MANY POINTS IN LINE

# ARE LARGEST IN CITY'S HISTORY

Checks to Be Mailed by Local Financial Institutions Aggregate \$301,767.50.

INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR AMOUNTS TO \$5,490

Record Is Phenomenal, in View catton until Saturday at least, and posof War and Disjointed Business Conditions.

SAY TÍMES ARE IMPROVING

Leading Bank Men Express View That Conditions Are Becoming Normal.

a hard-times year, with war in Europe, cotton stagnating in the South, ency system being installed and pessimistic customers drawing in their orns in what President Wilson has scribed as a "psyche Richmond's banking nanaged to earn and pay the largest from the various financial in-

Chilean plan proposes that being the garded as phenomenal, and doubt is expressed by well-informed financial men whether any city of Richmond's size of larger in this country will be able to make such a comparative showing. During the past year the banks have not only faced abnormal problems, but have been called on to pay their assessment for stock in the Federal reserve system and their subscriptions to the enormous cotton loan fund, both of which may prove profitable investments in the end, but which tie up a large amount of money for the present.

Dividends have been announced as follows:

Chilean plan proposes that being the given to take them to the given to take them to take them to the loss of the wessels in American ports be given to take them to the loss of larger in this country will be search to take them to law the submited the search the submit and untoward decomonic conditions, abandoned the core the propositions, abandoned the diminished treasury and untoward economic conditions, abandoned the core them to a low the two powers first and untoward the propositions to take them to

American National, capital \$1.000,000; quarterly divi-Trusts, capital \$250,000; seminanual dividend of 3

Brond Street, capital \$200,-000; semianauni dividend of 3 per cent, payable

Brondway National, capital \$200,000; new institution; profits devoted to surplus. Central National, capital \$350,000; Afth consecutive seminanual dividend of

Co., empital \$100,000: first

semiannual dividend of 2 First Antional Bank, eapital

\$150,000; directors have not acted. Mechanics' and Merchants',

enpital \$100,000; semi-annual dividend of 5 per Merchants' National, empirel \$200,000; semiannual divid-dend of 10 per cent.....

Mechanics' Savings, enpital \$1,000,600: annual dividend of 3 1-2

empital \$1,000,000; quarter-ly dividend of 1 1-2 per

capital \$300,000; semian-nual dividend of 10 per

Co., capital \$500,000; new institution; profits devoted

Richmond Trust and Savings Co., capital \$1,000,000; new institution; profits devoted to surplus. Savings Bank of Richmond.

capital \$200,000; semian-nual dividend of 5 per St. Luke's Penny Savings capital \$50,000; annual dividend of 3 per cent.... Union Bank of Richmond,

1.500 00 enpital \$219,750; semian-nual dividend of 9 per

\$1,000,000; semiannual divi-000; seminnual dividend

of 3 per cent...... Total bank dividends . . . 8301,707 50

INDUSTRIAL CORPORATIONS. Virginia Rallway and Power

Company, preferred stock of \$7,880,000; semiannual dividend of 3 per cent or preferred stock, (Dividends . . \$236,400 00 Company, capital \$18,-000,000, dividend deferred.

Virginia Fire and Marine Insurance Company, capital \$250,000; semiannual dividend of 6 per cent....

Total dividends declared, \$553,107 50

ONLY ONE BANK REDUCES

NLY ONE BANK REDUCES
ITS RATE OF DIVIDEND
With the exception of the First Nature of the soldiers of Great British of the soldiers of tional, which cut its semiannual divi-dend from 6 per cent to 5 per cent, there has been no reduction in the ratio

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

## LAMAR POSTPONES ACTION

Justice Not Rendy to Decide Latest Phase of Frank Case.

WASHINGTON, December 24 .- Justice Lamar, of the Supreme Court, to-day postponed until after Christmas action on an appeal in the case of Leo M. Frank, under death sentence for the murder of Mary Phagan, the factory girl of Atlanta, Ga. During the day, Louis Marshall, of

New York, made application to the jus-tice for an appeal from the decision of Judge Newman, of the Georgia Federal Court, denying Frank's petition for release on a habeas corpus writ. The attorney argued for an hour that the trial court, which found Frank guilty, had lost jurisdiction over him by per-mitting a mob atmosphere to prevail in the courtroom, and by allowing a ver-dict to be returned during the pris-oner's absence from the court. Justice Lamar notified Mr. Marshall that he would withhold decision on the appli-

Most of the points in the case are fresh in the justice's mind, as just be-fore Thanksgiving he denied an appli-cation for a writ of error to review the action of the Georgia Supreme Court in

WASHINGTON, December 24.—Committees to consider the plans proposed by various South American countries by various South American countries for maintenance of neutrality by the republics of the Western Hemisphere were named at to-day's meeting of the

a letter to the House Navai Committee. He submitted a proposal to that effect for inclusion in the forthcoming ap-propriation bill. An accompanying memorandum set forth that handling

is pecial to the Times-Dispatch.]

NEW YORK, December 24.—Santa
Claus, disguised as a fur-clad passenger in a motor runabout, whizzed down fifth Avenue this morning, slowing upatevery crossing where traffic polices and purple electric lights. From the mosts, to hand out 15 gold pieces to posts, to hand out 15 gold pieces to posts. licemen. There was a chauffeur to run in fantastic profusion the frosty the car for Santa, so that he had both baubles of Yuletide. Over it, in a clear hands free to fish the gold pieces out of a white canvas bag that appeared to hold about two quarts. Not only on the avenue, but up and down the side streets the car ran to visit cops that Santa appeared to have particularly in mind. The runabout bore the number 55220. New York. That is the n of a car licensed in the name of Rob-

# RECEIVES SACRED COLLEGE

Pope Tells Cardinals of His Efforts to Render War Less Terrible.

ROME, December 24.-Pope Benedict to-day received the members of the Sacred College in solemn audience for exchange of Christmas greetings, the ceremony taking on the pomp of the

He added that his advices regarding Cardinal Agliardi made it appa that his recovery would be speedy. that his recovery would be speedy.

Around the tree stood a detachment do to induce Turkey to concede to forts he had made to render the war ing guard over ground sacred to straits if the sea power of Creative Concede to straits. terrible, and said he would con- the tinue to devote all his energies to sup-

## BOTH DIVORCE SUITS OFF

pression or limitation of the inhuman

At Reems and Wife Meet While Doing Christmas Shopping.

NEW YORK, December Reeves, theatrical man, and his Mrs Almede Reeves, each suing the other for divorce, while out buying the other for divorce, while out the world.

They hurried out together and had inclosure dinner—the first good meal in two months, Reeves said over the table. Everything was forgiven and both divorce suits are off.

## LEAVES FOR THE FRONT

Princess Patricla's Regiment Soon Will Be on Battle Line.

LONDON, December 24.—Princess Patricia's regiment, a part of the Canadian contingent, which has as its hon-orary colonel the daughter of the Gov-ernor-General of Canada, has left for the front. It will be followed soon by ernor-General of Canada, has left for tanging in age from eight to eighteen the front. It will be followed soon by the Scottish regiments of Canada's platform immediately to the south of

The rest of the 30,000 Canadian solof payment by any Lank. On the other stages of their training, and it is exhand the Fidelity Loan and Savings diers are reaching the concluding weeks will be on the Continent,

# GLADDENS 10,000

Immense Crowd Packs Ford Lot Rumored That Negotiations Are Approaches to Watch Im-Far Along Between Germany and Russia.

CHILLING

posing Spectacle.

Dancing Exhibit Win Applause of Celebrants.

big and little children braved a biting

that it might be ressurrected and live again for a multitude, it stood un-bending and unhumbled in its foreign Washington for the holidays:

MONARCH EVERGREEN
In the history of the city there was never such a Christmas tree. Its brother of last year—the first of the brother of last year—the first of the summary of interests and motives

white halo of its own, burned brightly

SCHOOL CHILDREN SING
HYMNS OF CHRISTMAS
Egypt.
DESPERATE DIPLOMATIC Promptly upon the stroke of 6 there broke from a choir of more than 1,000 school children, seated in the impro-vised grandstand, the stirring anthem, Come All Ye Faithful" calling in full-throated song upon the joyful and triumphant to come to Bethlehem and behold Him born the King of Angels. Hardly had the sound of the opening verse died away when Chief Inspector J. L. Speights, of the Electric Department pulled a hidder letter. ment, pulled a hidden switch and the Community Christmas Tree, up to that moment in darkness, sprang into life. For two minutes the tree and attendant star glowed in a thousand lights, while the thousands that pressed against the times of Pope Leo.

The pontiff expressed his regret at the absonce of some of the prelates, owing to illness, referring especially to Cardinals Agllardi and Martinelli.

Sing." and again the invisible electric is soul gave the star-crowned Christmas soul gave the star-crowned Christmas regarding soul gave the star-crowned Christmas apparent tree life.

the spirit of giving. On the Broad and Eleventh Street sides of the big quadrangle were ranged details be, was hostile, any from the Richmond fantry Blues and the First Regiment, Volunteers, heavily wrapped against the cold and guns on their shoulders, to bar from the inner inclosure the most orderly large crowd that Dickmond has seen in years that Richmond has seen in years, IMMENSE THRONG

WITNESSES CEREMONY ing year than universal peace through-"You needn't turn away," said Reeves, "I was just buying you a dia- of Boy Scouts, armed with imposing to-morrow."

spectacle. A cordon of blue-coats oncile their differences and end the strife of to-day by compacts for peace to-morrow. of Boy Scouts, armed with imposing to morrow. staffs, did sentinel duty in the inner "It looks

musical director of the Richmond public schools, wielded the baton, and differences by arbitration, rather than Kessnich's Band supplied the music.

The big additional feature Miss M. V. Ramos, of the municipal is peace on earth and good playground forces. The dancers, a picked company of thirty or more girls, CLARK SEES NO HOPE

DANCE OF BELGIUM

WIND STORY GIVEN PLAUSIBILITY

School Choir of 1,000 and Folk- Washington Displays Almost Feverish Interest in Diplomatic Struggle.

BY JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES.

WASHINGTON, December 24.-The fore Thanksgiving he denied an application for a writ of error to review the action of the Georgia Supreme Court in refusing to set aside the verdict. The justice held in that proceeding that the State of Georgia had exclusive power over procedure of State courts. The attempt to-day was to establish that the case now could be considered on its merits.

PLANNING NEUTRALITY

Pan-American Committees Named to Bending and unhumbled in its foreign

Pan-American Committees Named to State of Georgia And Every heart to assert that it might be ressurrected and live again for a multitude, it stood unbending and unhumbled in its foreign Washington for the holidays:

When requested to express his views as to the report that a tentative danuary from the various financial institutions of this city aggregating \$501,757.50, an increase over the total amount of dividends announced by all the banks in Richmond at this period having been \$296,277.50. Dividends announced by industrial and instance corporations bring the total of business profits to be distributed at this this time to \$553,167.50, and REGARD RECORD OF

The record made by the banks is resarded as phenomenal, and doubt is expressed by well-informed financial men whether any city of Richmond's size or larger in this country will be alle to make such a consider the Pan-American Union. The ambassador from Bazil and the ministers from Peru and Honduras were appointed to consider the Peru-topy all line, but it lacked the stature and regal bearing of its prouder off-business profits to be distributed at this time to \$553,167.50, and the ministers from Ecuador, that to be part of \$2,000 and the ministers from Ecuador, that to be part of \$2,000 and the search of \$2,000 and the such as a such a community tree dynasty—will always be to emmunity tree dynasty—will always be to emmunity tree dynasty—will always be to emmunity tree dynasty—will always the significance. "No one who studies the community tree dynasty—will always be to emmunity tree dynasty—will always be to emmunity tree dynasty—will always the significance. "No one who studies the significance." To one who significance. "No one who studies the significance." To one who significance. "No one who studies the significance." To one who significance. "No one who studies the significance." To one who significance. "No one who studies the stature and regal bearing of its prouder of the significance." To one who studies the stature and regal bearing of its prouder of the significance. "No one who studies the significance." To one who studies the stature and regal bearing of its prouder of the spring.

At the very tip of the monarch every the of the monarch every the of the ministers from Peru and Indiance. "No one who studies the opan in the

le submitted a proposal to that effect willing, but lâle, hands.

He submitted a proposal to that effect willing, but lâle, hands.

HICHMOND'S SPIRIT OF GIVING MADE OF ENDURING STUEPT for inclusion in the forthcoming appropriation bill. An accompanying morandum set forth that handling of private meassages by the government would increase the efficiency of the stationis, and tend to prevent erection of purely commercial stations in the same locality. Twenty-four naval stations now are open to commercial stations now are open to commercial stations now are open to commercial stations and the law of 1912, and the secretary said there were eighteen others, the months have been lean months, and many dividends have been lean months, and many dividends have been passed, all the more reason that the city should be conference held at London in January, 1871, Russia gave notice that it was the stations, available for this purpose.

SANTA VISITS POLICEMEN

Rider Down Avenue and Distributes as Gold Pieces.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

[NEW YORK, December 24.—Santa in the suffice of stations and the season in the suffice stations are given in the light, after in the suffice of inclosing the force surrenteer of her protect. To fer of the chief of the chief of staff, Ober Lieutenant Hoff-Jorate over the eastern Christians, and the season to the eastern Christians, and to five the chief of the chief of staff, Ober Lieutenant Hoff-Jorate over the eastern Christians, and to five the chief of the first deep to the spirit of community comment and the first deep to the spirit of community comment and the season to give the chief of the chief of staff, Ober Lieutenant Hoff-Jorate over the eastern Christians, and to the state of the chief of staff, Ober Lieutenant Hoff-Jorate over the eastern Christians, and to the state of the chief of staff, Ober Lieutenant Hoff-Jorate over the spirit to community comment and the propose.

SA tips of the branches all around shone Turkey, occupies a diplomatic position tage has been somewhat increased by Great Britain's final and inevitable act in completing her sovereignty over

STRUGGLE UNDER WAY "In view of these conditions, it is hard to doubt that a desperate diplomatic struggle is now going on behind the curtain between Germany and the curtain between Germany and Great Britain for the final possession of the influence of Russia. Her states men, who are not as a rule sentimental, cannot for a moment forget that it is their duty to open up warm water ports as soon as possible for more than 160,000,000 people, who have been most unjustly excluded from them. In my humble opinion, the solution of that question is the one that will stand in the foreground when the time for a settlement comes. Russia's final allegiance will belong to the the one dream upon which her future largely depends. Until that question is settled there can hardly be a re-establishment of the peace of Europe, no matter what Germany straits, if the sea power of the Mediterranean, as it surely would be, was hostile, any concession that Germany and Turkey might make to Russia might bring her but little re-

Oscar Underwood, the Democratic "There is no greater blessing that could come to our people in the com-

"There is no wish for the future, the day in a Brooklyn store.

"Oh, Al!" exclaimed Mrs. Reeves.

Then she remembered and turned her

The she remembered and turned her

The she remembered and turned her

The she remembered and turned her she remembered and tur

> "It looks as if the armies contend-There followed other hymns and that to continue the struggle would Christmas carols, the tree remaining only mean a tremendous sacrifice of in darkness during the singing, and lighting up again during the inter-Professor Walter C. Mercer, rected the fight so far will realize this rector of the Richmond pub-

"I have an abiding hope and faith be-

FOR PEACE IN NEAR FUTURE Champ Clark, Speaker of the House, said: "When the great transatlantic war was begun, I did not believe that t would last three weeks. I did not be-Oxford Minuet, a graceful dance of like that of Austria. Of course, at that slow movement, which the crowd received with prolonged applause. Af
(Continued on Second Page.) lieve that little Servia could very long (Continued on Fifth Page.)

# HOPE QUICKENED FOR EARLY PEACE JOFFRE IS TESTING CERMAN DEFENSE



Gen Von Hindenburg om Staff Officers

Field Marshal von Hindenburg, whose strategic ability in moving the erman troops against the Russians, and whose more recent achievement in Poland has shown him to be one of the foremost and ablest of German commanding officers, is seen with staft officers in front of his headquarters in Poland. He is standing with his hands in his overcoat pockets. On his right is General von Lindendorff, described as the "hero of Liege." On the left is the first "aide" of the chief of staff, Ober Lieutenant Hoffman, who represented the German general staff with the Russian chief command during the Russellanguese Wan.

Aisne, in Champagne, near Perthes, in lines in Northern Poland rested on that

PARIS, December 24,-The French official statement given out this after- December 21 (by automobile courier to noon recites a series of French suc- Posen, Prussla, December 23; London, cesses of apparently minor importance December 24).-The capture of Lodz, from the sea on the north to the fron- according to a declaration made to-day tier of Alsace on the south. The lo- by General von Hindenburg, German cations where French troops have commander, to a correspondent of the gained the advantage are given as Associated Press, was the turning point along the Lys, in the region of the of the campaign in Poland. Russian

the Argonne, in the forest of Apremont city, for the possession of which there and near St. Die. Fog prevented fighting near Arras the entire war on this front. After the and Verdun, and there has been artil- Russians, following a most obstinate lery fighting southeast of Amiens, near resistance on their part, were forced Ville-Sur-Tourbe and in the forest of to evacuate the town, a general Rus-Apremont.

PROGRESS IS MADE BY SAPPING OPERATIONS

"From the sea to the Lys we made progress by sapping operations in the dunes, and we repulsed an attack in the dunes, and we repulsed an attack in the dunes, and we repulsed an attack in the vicinity of Lodz, and gained an idea of the nature of the operations which led to the city's capture. front of Lombaertzyde. At Zwartelen, IN FORM OF PITCHFORK to the southeast of Ypres, we occupied a group of houses, and we drove back | According to the general alignment as far as the southern part of this of

year's celebration was an exhibition fore the new year runs to an end, that tance of 400 yards, and we drove back of folk dancing under the direction of the world may see in fact that there a counterattack. The Germans enwill to deavored to take the offensive direction of Ville-Sur-Tourbe, but our artillery dispersed them,

"In the forest of Apremont our ar-llery demolished and caused the tillery enemy to evacuate several trenches. In the Woevre district the French artillery reduced certain German batteries "In the region of Ban de Sant, to the

northeast of St. Die, our infantry advanced with a rush and established "There is nothing to report from

# OFFICIAL statements reveal the intense nature of the fighting east and west, but indicate that, with the possible exception of East Prussia, there has been no significant change in the alignment of the appearing forces. opposing forces.

LODZ, RUSSIAN POLAND, Monday,

occurred the most bitter struggle of

sian retirement in the direction of War-

the Austro-German forces, they

(Continued on Second Page.)

saw became necessary.

The German statement tells of a fight for possession of a trench in France which was won by the French, recaptured by the Germans and finally abandoned. So ficree was the struggle that the trench was almost leveled by artillery fire.
No important movements are reported in the German communication.

serting small galus have been made here and there, mentions German attacks at so many points that it is apparent the allies have not been permitted solely to take the offen-sive into their own hands. Such ground as they have won recently is not to be held without hard fight-ing.

Fighting in Poland has become most severe, and at points west of Warsaw the issue is being fought warsnw the issue is being fought out with bayonets. The Berlin War Office states the Russian advance in East Prussia has been checked, and that the Russians at Minwa, in Po-land, near the Prussian border, have been defeated.

end of Italy, was torpedoed by an Austrian submarine. It is stated that the damage was slight, and that no men were injured.

Although accounts vary about the present military status in Poland, it is evident the scene of heavies fighting has shifted southward from Sochaczew, on the Bzura River, thirty miles from Warsaw, toward which the Germans for several lays directed their principal efforts. Austro-German forces, operating from the Cracow base, attempting meeting with determined Russian

semioficial statement from Petrograd asserts Russian succ in Gallein continue, and that in the been thrown back. Another surth by the garrison at Przemyst, which has long been under Russian attack, is said to have resulted disastrously for the Austriana

Now that the French government has returned to Paris, a venture-some German aeronaut has at-tempted to prove the capital is not yet out of the war zone by flying over it. He was brought down by a French neroplane, however, nineteen miles from Paris.

as far as the southern part of this village a counterattack on the enemy; this was done in spite of a very spirited fire from the German artillery.

"The Belgian army pushed forward certain detachments along the right bank of the Yser, to the south of Dishmals, and organized a defensive work mude, and organized a defensive work of the counteration of the Austro-German forces, they will be enemy; the west. However, the attack was made largely from the north and northwest. They drove their columns into the Russians in the form of a huge pitchfork, with another large force between the tines.

It looked for a time as if the Russians in the east a supreme German effort continues to be made before Warsaw. LONDON, December 24.-Christmas

mude, and organized a defensive work protecting the head of a bridge.

"In the region of Arras, the fog still made all operations impossible.
"To the east and to the southeast of Amiens, especially in the suburbs of Lassigny, there have been artillery exchanges.

"In the region of the Aisne the Zouaves during all day yesterday held back brilliantly a number of attacks; the road of Puisleine, of the German the road of Puisleine, of the German the road of Puisleine, of the German for the Russians.

In the east a supreme German effort continues to be made before Warsaw, where the German centre and the Russians, seeking to check it, sway back and forth along the banks of the rivers the direction of their Warsaw base.

The intention was to drive the Russians into the arms of large Austro-German forces massed to cut off, their retreat, but the timely arrival of Russian reserves from Warsaw resulted in the breaking of the easternmost time of the fork, relieving the situation for the Russians.

In the east a supreme German effort continues to be made before Warsaw, where the German centre and the Russians, seeking to check it, sway back and forth along the banks of the rivers, burring the way to the Polish latest encounters, but during the last ten days the Germans have advanced appreciably, and it is said they now are bringing up their forty-two-centimetre guns preparatory to siege operations. In Galicia the Austro-German forces

the road of Puisleine, of the German trenches occupied by us December 21.

STRENGTHEN POSITIONS

"In Champagne we strengthened the position taken by us in our advance on the night before in the region of Craonne and Rheims.

"In the vicinity of Perthes all the counterattacks of the enemy on the positions conquered by us December 22. Were successfully repulsed. To the northwest of Mesnil-Les-Hurlus we northwest of Mesnil-Les-Hurlus we occupied German trenches for a disoccupied German trenches for the Russians.

In one of the calebrated "cutting off" of tuting off" of two thick and Lodz for the Russians.

In Gali where the Russians, in one of the final phases of the struggle for Lodz, showed that, in spite of their defeats and dis-

that, in spite of their defeats and discouragements, they knew how to fight and die. This churchyard lies on a small eminence which formed a salient varying from 1,000,000 to 1,500,000, but that Duscia naless The Germans were able to attack from three sides with infantry and artillery. All Russian trenches were enfiladed by shrapnel from one direction or another, but the Russians clung to their positions obstinately. When the Petrograd has never considered the concentration of forces is nearing completion.

or another, but the Russians clung to their positions obstinately. When the Germans finally captured the trenches strands Russian corpses were found in a space about eighty yards square. It (Continued on Second 1987). who remarked to the representative of